

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 2-5, 7-23, 25, 26 and 28-33, AMEND claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12-15, 24-29 and 32 and ADD new claims 34-40 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A signature system presenting a receiver with signature information of a user, comprising:
 - an input unit inputting identification authentication information of the user; and
 - an output unit outputting information for generation of the signature information according to the input identification authentication information, the output information including a signature program information for generation of illegal use prevention information for protection against illegal use, and
wherein the signature program generates first blind information from illegal use prevention information for protection against illegal use, and enters both the first blind information and the illegal use prevention information in the signature information.

Claims 2-5 (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1,
wherein said signature program information contains a one-directional function[[],] and is an encryption key, used in generating blind information of use information using the one-directional function, and generating the from said illegal use prevention information containing the blind information.

Claims 7-23 (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform a method comprising:
 - inputting identification information of a user;

generating output information for generation of signature information of the user according to the input identification information;

generating a signature program for ~~generation of illegal use prevention information~~ generating blind information from the illegal use prevention information, and entering both the blind information and the illegal use prevention information in the signature information; and

outputting the generated output information and the signature program in a format readable by a bar code reader.

27. (currently amended) A signature system presenting a receiver with signature information of a user, comprising:

input means for inputting the identification information of the user; and

output means for outputting information for generation of the signature information according to the input identification information, including a signature program, in a format readable by a bar code reader, and

wherein the signature program generates blind information from illegal use prevention information, and enters both the generated blind information and the illegal use prevention information in the signature information.

34. (new) The system according to claim 1,

further comprising a comparison unit generating second blind information from said illegal use prevention information contained in the signature information, and comparing the second blind information with the first blind information contained in the signature information.

35. (new) A signature system, comprising:

management unit for managing first blind information generated from authentication information, one-directional function and encryption key which are registered by a user;

receiving unit for receiving signature information which contains the authentication information;

generation unit for generating second blind information from the authentication information contained in the signature information, using the one-directional function and the encryption key;

comparison unit for comparing the first blind information with the second blind information to produce a first comparison result; and

verification unit for verifying the signature information according to the first comparison result.

36. (new) A signature system according to claim 35, wherein:
 - said receiving unit receives signature information which contains illegal use prevention information and third blind information generated from the illegal use prevention information;
 - said generation unit further generates fourth blind information generated from the illegal use prevention information contained in the signature information, using the one-directional function and the encryption key;
 - said comparison unit further compares the third blind information with the fourth blind information to produce a second comparison result; and
 - said verification unit verifies the signature information according to the second comparison result.

37. (new) A signature system according to claim 35,
 - wherein said receiving unit receives from the user, authentication information and the first blind information generated from authentication information, and
 - wherein said generation unit generates third blind information from the authentication information, using the one-directional function and the encryption key, and
 - wherein said comparison unit compares the first blind information with the third blind information to produce a second comparison result, and
 - further comprising entering unit for entering the first blind information in said management unit, if the first and third blind information are identical according to the second comparison result.